

**Amendments to the Claims**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:**

1. (currently amended) In a computer including hardware, a virtual machine monitor, and first and second operating system instances, a method comprising:

using the virtual machine monitor (VMM) to expose the first operating system instance to a first hardware partition of the hardware and prevent the first operating system instance from discovering a second hardware partition of the hardware;

using the virtual machine monitor to expose the second operating system instance to the second hardware partition and prevent the second operating system instance from discovering the first hardware partition; and

using the virtual machine monitor to share at least some of the hardware among the first and second operating system instances that are booted on the VMM after the hardware is configured, wherein the VMM configures the hardware so accesses to requested addresses by the first OS trap to the VMM, the traps occurring during resource discovery of memory installed and input/output (I/O) devices present by a booting operating system (OS) instance and the VMM responds to a trap by misinforming the booting OS instance about existence of hardware not in its partition.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second partitions include different portions of memory.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second partitions include different I/O devices.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the shared hardware includes a CPU.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual machine monitor allows the first instance to have direct control over the first partition, and the second instance to have direct control over the second partition.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1-6, wherein the virtual machine monitor uses memory management to partition I/O devices.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the VMM configures the hardware to trap to the VMM either when an access misses in a translation lookaside buffer, or when one of the operating system instances modifies its page table.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the hardware is configured to treat physical addresses as virtual addresses, whereby the virtual machine monitor also uses memory management to trap accesses to physical addresses.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the hardware includes a CPU, and wherein the virtual machine monitor configures the CPU to disable direct accessibility of the physical memory, whereby the VMM can trap I/O and physical memory accesses.

11. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein using the memory management includes inspecting an address translation on a trap and modifying, accepting, or rejecting the translation.

12. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein using the memory management includes inserting translations for I/O addresses into a translation lookaside buffer or page table.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the virtual machine monitor grants unfettered access by an operating system instance to the range of physical memory covered by the translation entry in its translation lookaside buffer or page table.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual machine monitor modifies a hardware description table to expose and prevent discovery.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual machine monitor performs emulation to share hardware.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

delivering interrupts to interrupt handlers maintained by the first instance when the first instance accesses the first partition; and

delivering interrupts directly to interrupt handlers maintained by the second instance when the second instance accesses the second partition.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein operation of the virtual machine monitor is transparent to the first and second operating system instances.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual machine monitor partitions I/O devices bus-wise.

20. (currently amended) In a computer including hardware, a virtual machine monitor running on the hardware, a method comprising:

booting a plurality of operating system (OS) instances on the virtual machine monitor (VMM);

using the virtual machine monitor to expose each of the booting operating system instances to its own partition and to prevent each of the operating system instances from discovering other hardware partitions; and

using the virtual machine monitor to share at least some of the hardware among the operating system instances;

wherein operation of the virtual machine monitor is transparent to the plurality of operating system instances, wherein the VMM configures the hardware so accesses to addresses requested by the OS trap to the VMM, the traps occur during resource discovery of memory installed and input/output (I/O) devices present by the booting OS

instance, and the VMM responds to a trap by misinforming the booting OS instance about an existence of hardware not in its partition, and wherein the first and second instances are booted on the VMM after the hardware is configured.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the hardware includes a CPU, and wherein the virtual machine monitor can configure the CPU to disable direct accessibility of the physical memory, whereby the VMM can trap I/O and physical memory accesses.

23. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the virtual machine monitor uses memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inspecting an address translation on a trap and modifying, accepting, or rejecting the translation.

24. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the virtual machine monitor uses memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inserting translations for I/O addresses into a translation lookaside buffer or page table.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the virtual machine monitor grants unfettered access by an operating system instance to the range of physical memory covered by the translation entry in its translation lookaside buffer or page table.

26. (canceled)

27. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the virtual machine monitor modifies a hardware description table to expose and prevent discovery.

28. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the virtual machine monitor partitions I/O devices bus-wise.

29. (currently amended) A computer comprising:

memory for storing a virtual machine monitor (VMM), a first operating system (OS), and a second ~~OS-operating-system~~;

a processor for running the ~~VMM-virtual machine monitor~~ and first and second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instances on the ~~VMM-virtual machine monitor~~;

the ~~VMM-virtual machine monitor~~ designed to expose a first ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance to a first hardware partition and prevent the first ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance from discovering a second hardware partition;

the ~~VMM-virtual machine monitor~~ designed to expose a second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance to the second hardware partition and prevent the second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance from discovering the first hardware partition;

the ~~VMM-virtual machine monitor~~ designed to allow at least some hardware sharing among the first and second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instances, wherein the VMM configures hardware so accesses to requested addresses by the first OS trap to the VMM, the traps occur during resource discovery of memory installed and input/output (I/O) devices present by the booting OS instance, and the VMM responds to a trap by misinforming the booting OS instance about an existence of hardware not in its partition, and wherein the first and second instances are booted on the VMM after the hardware is configured.

30. (currently amended) A computer for running first and second operating system (OS) instances, the computer comprising hardware including memory, the memory encoded with a virtual machine monitor (VMM) for exposing the first ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance to a first partition of the hardware and preventing the first ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance from discovering a second partition of the hardware; exposing the second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance to the second hardware partition and preventing the second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instance from discovering the first hardware partition; and sharing at least some of the hardware among the first and second ~~OS-operating-system~~ instances that are booted on the VMM after the hardware is configured, wherein the VMM configures the hardware so accesses to requested addresses by the first OS trap to the VMM, the traps occur during resource discovery of memory installed and input/output (I/O) devices present by the booting OS instance, and the VMM responds to a trap by misinforming the

booting OS instance about an existence of the hardware not in its partition.

31. (canceled)

32. (original) The computer of claim 30, wherein the hardware includes a CPU, and wherein the virtual machine monitor can configure the CPU to disable direct accessibility of the physical memory, whereby the VMM can trap I/O and physical memory accesses.

33. (original) The computer of claim 30, wherein the virtual machine monitor can use memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inspecting an address translation on a trap and modifying, accepting, or rejecting the translation.

34. (original) The computer of claim 30, wherein the virtual machine monitor can use memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inserting translations for I/O addresses into a translation lookaside buffer or page table.

35. (canceled)

36. (original) The computer of claim 30, wherein the virtual machine monitor can modify a hardware description table to expose and prevent discovery.

37. (original) The computer of claim 30, wherein the virtual machine monitor can partition I/O devices bus-wise.

38. (currently amended) An article for a computer, the article comprising computer memory encoded with a virtual machine monitor (VMM) for exposing a first operating system (OS) instance to a first hardware partition and preventing the first OS-operating system instance from discovering a second hardware partition; exposing a second OS operating-system instance to the second hardware partition and preventing the second OS operating-system instance from discovering the first hardware partition; and sharing at

least some of the hardware among the first and second ~~OS-operating system~~ instances that are booted on the VMM after the hardware is configured, wherein the VMM configures the hardware so accesses to requested addresses by the first OS trap to the VMM, the traps occur during resource discovery of memory installed and input/output (I/O) devices present by the booting OS instance, and the VMM responds to a trap by misinforming the booting OS instance about an existence of the hardware not in its partition.

39. (canceled)

40. (original) The article of claim 38, wherein the hardware includes a CPU, and wherein the virtual machine monitor can configure the CPU to disable direct accessibility of the physical memory, whereby the VMM can trap I/O and physical memory accesses.

41. (original) The article of claim 38, wherein the virtual machine monitor can use memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inspecting an address translation on a trap and modifying, accepting, or rejecting the translation.

42. (original) The article of claim 38, wherein the virtual machine monitor can use memory management to partition I/O devices, the memory management including inserting translations for I/O addresses into a translation lookaside buffer or page table.

43. (canceled)

44. (original) The article of claim 38, wherein the virtual machine monitor can modify a hardware description table to expose and prevent discovery.

45. (original) The article of claim 38, wherein the virtual machine monitor can partition I/O devices bus-wise.